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Mayor



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COUNTY OF KAUAI

KAUAI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

News Release

For Immediate Release: April 16, 2018

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1:55 a.m. UPDATE: Flash Flood Warning expired; Road closures continue

LĪHU'E – The Flash Flood Warning for the island of Kaua'i has expired, but a Flash Flood Watch remains in effect until 6 a.m. Monday.

Kūhiō Highway, in the vicinity of the Hanalei Bridge, remains closed until the bridge can be inspected and deemed safe.

Officials are also reporting continued road closures and are assessing the following areas:

- Weke Road in the vicinity of Black Pot Beach due to a sinkhole;
- The south-bound lane is open on Kūhiō Highway on the Wailua Bridge;
- Severe erosion closed the mauka portion of Kahiliholo Road at Kalihiwai Ridge;
- Kuhio Highway, between Waikoko and Wainiha, due to multiple landslides;
- Hanalei Plantation Road in Princeville due to a sinkhole.

Kalihiwai Reservoir had reached near capacity as of 3:30 p.m. As a safety precaution, the low-lying areas of Kalihiwai Valley along Kalihiwai Valley Road and near Kalihiwai Stream were evacuated. There is no active threat at this time as water appears to be receding but the evacuation remains in effect until further notice.

The Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative continues to report spotted power outages from Kīlauea to Lāwa'i due to severe weather and lightning strikes. Additionally, extended outages are continuing from Hanalei to Hā'ena.

The American Red Cross has opened an evacuation shelter at Kōloa Elementary School due to multiple homes becoming flooded and rescue operations occurring in the vicinity of Waila'au Road. An evacuation shelter remains open at Hanalei Elementary School and the Church of the Pacific in Princeville. The shelter at Kapa'a Middle School has been closed. Big Save in Hanalei and AMR worked together to provide additional water to the Hanalei shelter.

The Department of Education has announced that Hanalei Elementary School will be closed on Monday, April 16, due to inclement weather. As a result of the school closure, no school busses will be operating for students residing in Hanalei, Wainiha or Hā'ena who attend Kapa'a Middle and Kapa'a High School. Additionally, DOE reports that due to inclement weather conditions and road conditions, bus transportation services will not be operating for students residing in Keapana (Valley Area) who attend Kapaa Elementary, Kapaa Middle and Kapaa High schools. This notice is only for the students living in the Keapana Valley area.

The Kaua'i Emergency Management Emergency Operations Center has been activated since early Saturday morning and is continuing to partner with the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Army and the Honolulu Fire Department to support the ongoing search and rescue operations on the North Shore.

Both on-duty and off-duty emergency personnel have performed a number of rescues and evacuations since Saturday night. The exact number of rescues are not yet known and no major injuries have been reported at this time.

The state Department of Transportation and the county Public Works Roads Division continue to work to clear landslides and debris that have occurred in multiple locations between Kalihiwai and Wainiha.

The Department of Water (DOW) announces a water service outage for Hā'ena, Wainiha and some Hanalei customers until further notice. There is no timeline for water service

restoration at this time, due to the inaccessibility of the area. Affected customers are advised to collect rain water to use for non-potable water needs.

Princeville Utilities Co., Inc. has issued an immediate water conservation notice for all its customers in Princeville, Anini Vista, Kalihiwai Bay Estates, Kapaka Road and Hanalei Plantation Road. Severe inclement weather has affected the emergency repairs response to the well which will result in depletion of the storage tank supply. There is currently no available timeline for water service restoration or service repairs at this time due to the inaccessibility of the area.

Mayor Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr. has signed an emergency proclamation as the County of Kaua'i engages in various emergency response operations associated with record-breaking rains, flooding and thunderstorms.

For updates on road conditions and closures, please call 241-1725. Please do not call Kaua'i police 911 unless you have an emergency.

For weather updates call the National Weather Service automated weather line at 245-6001, or visit the NWS website, www.weather.gov/hawaii.

To sign up for Blackboard Connect, the county's emergency notification service, please go to the county's website, www.kauai.gov/KEMA, or call the Kaua'i Emergency Management Agency at 241-1800.

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